Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

19.05.2026

Notice from the Examination Board
for the European Qualifying Examination

The Examination Board is looking for new members of the Examination Committees of the European Qualifying Examination (EQE).

Applicants for membership of an Examination Committee (EC) must have passed the EQE papers pursuant to Rule 6(5) of the Implementing provisions to the Regulation on the European qualifying examination (IPREE) presently in force (see Supplementary publication 3 – Official Journal EPO 2024). New EC members are appointed with effect from 1 January 2027 for a term of two years and may be re-appointed for further terms of two years upon expiry of each term.

There are currently five ECs, each comprising epi and EPO members. EC I is responsible for paper M3, EC II for paper M1 , EC III for papers M2 and M4, and EC IV for paper F. EC V is responsible for harmonisation and quality of papers and procedures, and is made up of experienced members of ECs I-IV. The duties of the ECs are set out in Article 8 REE. A list of Examination Committee members and other information can be found here: epo.org/learning/eqe.html

The duties of EC members mainly concern the marking of candidates' answer papers, which will require a minimum commitment of 120 hours per year, including a minimum of four days of meetings (generally online). New EC members are also expected to participate in other duties, such as the testing and checking of new papers or potentially acting as an EQE invigilator during the examination, which might require further or different time commitments. Once EC members have gained approximately 2 years' experience, they may also be required to take on the task of drafting future examination papers. The committee work is conducted online using various digital platforms and tools that facilitate communication and collaboration.

How to apply:

If you are interested in becoming a member of one of the ECs, you can apply by filling in the application form and submitting it to the Examination Secretariat.

Applications which are received by **15 September 2026** will be taken into consideration for the term starting 1 January 2027.

Based on the needs of the ECs, the EB will draw up a shortlist of applicants. These applicants will be contacted between September-October and a short interview, usually by telephone or videoconference, might be held. The EB will then submit their proposal to the President of the EPO for appointment.

For the Examination Board
The Chairman

Jakob Kofoed